

(b) whether Pharma Association have also agreed not to charge any additional tax on Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and make it mandatory to printing of MRP inclusive of all taxes on the medicines in future; and

(c) if so, what further steps Government have taken so far to make, available other essential drugs at cheaper rates to the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (b) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. However, no formal notification/order has been issued by the Government in this regard.

Vide S.O. No. 946(E) dated the 26th June, 2006, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of medicines inclusive of all local taxes has been made effective from the 2nd October, 2006. The batches manufactured after 2nd October, 2006 are required to carry the MRP inclusive of all taxes.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Price reduction on drugs

286. **SHRI C. PERUMAL:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of certain drugs have been reduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of common and everyday use drugs have not been reduced; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Pharma companies have agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. A compilation of the list of 886 such medicines, whose prices have been voluntarily reduced by

11 companies as a result of this cap on trade margins has been brought out. The list is available on this Department's Website www.chemicals.gov.in. It covers formulations in all dosage forms such as tablets, capsules and syrups, etc. which find usage in the treatment of a large number of diseases. The medicines covered are anti diabetics, antibiotics, cough syrups, painkillers as well as those used during the surgical operations, for the cure of the infectious diseases and for the treatment of hypertension etc.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time the directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Shortage of fertilizers

287. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of fertilizers faced by the farmers during the crucial phase of their crops;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the prices of the fertilizers are hiked by the traders artificially during this phase; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure supply of fertilizers to the farmers at fair prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement distribution and price control of the Government. During the just concluded Kharif 2006 season, about 125.04 LMT of urea was made available to the States against the assessed requirement of 122.37 LMT. Sales during the season were reported to be about 113.65 LMT. And unsold stock of about 11.39 LMT was available as on 30.09.2006.

(b) and (c) Some reports of black marketing have been received. Minister has accordingly written to all Chief Ministers to take steps against such defaulters as the primary responsibility in this regard is that of the State Governments.